

**(Washington, DC)** Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) hailed the capture of Serbian war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic. Mladic, the former Bosnian Serb military leader, was indicted for the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in which over 7,500 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were murdered in what the International Court of Justice ruled was genocide.

"General Mladic organized the single worst atrocity in Europe since the end of World War Two, and I am pleased that 16 years later he will finally be brought to justice," said Hastings. "His arrest brings Serbia and its neighbors one step closer to closing a horrific and sad chapter in their history. Genocide knows no statute of limitations. The families of his victims have never forgotten. His past has finally caught up to him, and now he will have to answer for it.

"I commend the Serbian leaders who had the courage to arrest him despite the unconscionable support he enjoys among some segments of the population. This man brought nothing but shame and misery to hundreds of thousands of people in the Balkans. No matter religion, ethnicity, or nationality, there is no justification for cruel and senseless slaughter, and all who participated in the Srebrenica massacre should be brought to justice.

"Let this be a message to all those who commit atrocities: the world will not forget, you will be hunted forever, and no matter how old you are you will be brought to justice. This has been a bad month for terrorists and war criminals in hiding – I can only hope that the rest of the year is worse."

Mladic is scheduled to be extradited within the week to the Hague to stand trial for war crimes.

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.*

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